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FILED

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Ed Smith
CLERK OF THE SUPREME COURT
STATE OF MONTANA

Attorneys for Defendant Montana Power Company

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF MONTANA

Supreme Court Cause No. DA 09-0578

HERMAN GONZALES, FAWN LYONS,
KEN LAUDATO, LAWRENCE WALKER,
GARY MANSIKKA, GARY GALETTI,
GREG WHITING, MARVIN KRONE,
RICHARD BLACK, JIM KELLY, CHRIS
SOUSLEY, and All Other Similarly
Situating,

Plaintiffs and Appellees,

vs.

MONTANA POWER COMPANY;
NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION, a
Delaware Corporation; NORTHWESTERN
CORPORATION, a Delaware Corporation,
as a Reorganized Debtor, Subsequent to Its
Plan Confirmation, Hereinafter Referred
to as NOR; NORTHWESTERN
CORPORATION d/b/a NORTHWESTERN
ENERGY; PUTMAN AND
ASSOCIATES, INC., a Montana
Corporation; JOHN DOES II AND III; and
JOHN DOES IV THRU XX,

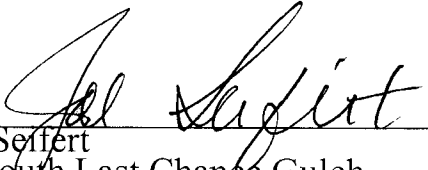
Defendants and Appellants.

**MONTANA POWER
COMPANY'S JOINDER IN
PUTMAN AND
ASSOCIATES, INC.'S
RESPONSE TO MOTION
FOR EXPEDITED
PROCEEDINGS AND
SUSPENSION OF THE
RULE**

The Montana Power Company, one of the Appellants herein, hereby joins in the arguments in opposition of Appellant Putman and Associates, Inc.'s and Northwestern Corporation's to Appellees's motion for expedited proceedings and suspension of the rules.

DATED this 22nd day of December, 2009.

KELLER, REYNOLDS, DRAKE,
JOHNSON & GILLESPIE, P.C.



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Joe Seifert, one of the attorneys for the Defendant, Montana Power Company, above-identified, hereby certify that I served a copy of the within **MONTANA POWER COMPANY'S JOINDER IN PUTMAN AND ASSOCIATES, INC.'S AND NORTHWESTERN CORPORATION'S RESPONSE TO MOTION TO EXPEDITED PROCEEDINGS AND SUSPENSION OF THE RULE**, by depositing the same in the United States mails, at Helena, Montana, postage fully prepaid by first class mail, directed to:

Chris Ragar, Esq.
RAGAR LAW OFFICES
2050 W. Dickerson, Ste B
Bozeman, Montana 59718

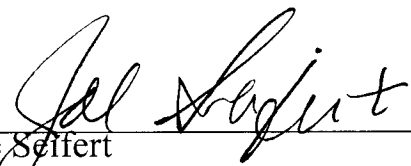
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DATED this 21 day of December, 2009.



Joe Seifert